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JANUARY 25.

REV. HENRY C. MCCOOK, D. D., Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-one persons present.

The following were elected members; Bernard Persh, Geo. B. Cresson, Joseph Whitehouse, William B. Marshall and William Osler, M. D.

On a Tumor in the Oyster.—Prof. JOHN A. RYDER remarked that a few days since Professor Leidy handed him the soft parts of an oyster, which he said he thought might be an interesting subject for investigation, inasmuch as a very large tumor had grown into the pericardiac cavity. The specimen is a very remarkable one, and seems to be the first of the kind which has fallen under the observation of naturalists; neither Professor Leidy nor the speaker, in the course of large opportunities for observation, having previously encountered anything of the sort. It is also of great interest as proving that such pathological growths may be developed in the mollusca, thus showing that even in the invertebrata there may be morbid proliferations of certain tissues which simulate in certain respects those observed to occur in man and the higher types of vertebrates, in which they become very dangerous and painful in character, as in the case of cancer.

The first and most striking features of this tumor, found in the oyster, is its great size in proportion to that of the animal. The tumor in its largest dimension measures nearly one inch across, with a thickness of fully half an inch. The total length of the animal, in alcohol, is about three inches, and it appears normal in every other respect. For size, in proportion to the dimensions of the animal, it can therefore only be compared to those huge morbid growths on certain parts of man known as elephantiasis. It is subcircular in outline as viewed from the side, and fills up the pericardiac cavity in front of the adductor muscle; this cavity being very greatly enlarged in consequence of the growth of the tumor. The larger portion of it also lies on the right side, and on account of its great size it has displaced the heart forwards and to the left.

Its consistence is soft and yielding when pressed with the finger, and consists of some eighteen very distinct lobules of irregular size and form. Its joint of attachment appears to be to the mass of tissue which surrounds the posterior and rectal part of the intestine of the animal, and appears to have grown out in this region, or from the dorsal wall of the heart chamber.

Upon removing one of the lobules, which was cut into sections, it was found that its histological structure was also very remark-

wholly of granite, like that of Liu Ng. Not far below the pass there had been a landslide from one of the mountains, and it gave a fine chance to see the original constitution of the slope. I suppose this sandstone may be Triassic, because it appears to be unfossiliferous. The Chinese do not make vast excavations, but they use stone for bridges, etc. In one place I crossed a new bridge, made of red sandstone, and I examined the quarry from which the stone came. If there were fossils found they would, without doubt, be used as fetiches, and I should hear of them. The natives said no queer thing had been found or seen in the stones. There was no sign or speck of a fossil to be found about the quarry."

The specimens of stone accompanying the notes were commented upon by Prof. Heilprin, who stated that they would be the subject of further study and report. The district here described is an interesting one to geologists, inasmuch as it had hitherto received but little attention upon the part of the travelers. Much of the rock surface is probably identical with that observed by Richthofen in the region to the west and north, the details of which have not yet been published in his work on China. The red sandstone (Nos. 4 and 5) described by Miss Fielde as a possible representative of the Trias, is apparently a member of the series referred by Richthofen to the Jurassic period—so identified by the plant remains.

Chinese Rhizopods.—MISS FIELDE also announced that during her study of the fresh-water Rhizopods found in the streams around Swatow, she had collected several forms identical with those described by Dr. Leidy, from the neighborhood of Philadelphia (*Difflugia urceolata*, *D. pyriformis*, *Arcella vulgaris*).

The following was ordered to be printed:—